

BIRMINGHAM- Today, Congressman Spencer Bachus joined Mr. Mike Elliot along with state and local officials to tour property at the American Village in Montevallo that is proposed to be the site of a new National Veteran's Cemetery. Mike Elliot is the National Director of Cemetery Construction with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

“The Shelby County Site is particularly attractive because of the tie in with the American Village, historic Montevallo, and the beautiful rolling landscape of the Shoal Creek Valley,” said Congressman Bachus.

In choosing a suitable location for the construction of the new National Cemetery, the Department of Veterans Affairs was directed to solicit the advice of representatives of State and local veterans organizations for possible sites for the National Cemetery in the Birmingham

area.

“Our Veterans groups, and the entire Alabama Delegation have worked hard to make this a reality,” said Congressman Bachus. “Frank Wilkes with the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs and Tom Walker with the American Village are due special thanks for their vision to bring this cemetery to the American Village.”

Bachus continued, “Community leaders including those from the American Village, the City and University of Montevallo, and the Shelby County Commission have all pledged their full cooperation and support.”

In 1999 and 2003 the VA was directed by Congress to establish 12 new national cemeteries, all of which will be located near large populations of veterans who currently do not have access to a burial option in a National Cemetery.

“It is only fitting those in Alabama who have served our country with honor are afforded a final resting place near their loved ones,” Bachus said.

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